

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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NSC-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 /084 W
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R 191700Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4249
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANJUL 0530

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT PFOR GA
SUBJ: ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS, PART I

REF: A. STATE 038356, B. STATE 050795

FOLLOWING SUBMISSION FROM EMBASSY BANJUL HAS FULL CONCURRENCE
OF AMBASSADOR AGGREY.

PART I - POLICY ASSESSMENTS

A. U.S. INTERESTS:

A SMALL WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY WITH ABOUT 550,000 INHABITANTS,
THE GAMBIA IS OF MODEST INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES. NONE-
THELESS, ITS STRONG DEMOCRATIC TRADITION, BASIC RESPECT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SENSIBLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES,
STAND OUT AS AN EXAMPLE IN AFRICA WHICH FAR OUT-WEIGHS THE
GAMBIA'S SMALL SIZE AND LIMITED RESOURCES. IT IS IN OUR
BASIC INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE THIS EXAMPLE INsofar AS OUR
PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES WILL PERMIT. MORE SPECIFIC U.S.
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INTERESTS INCLUDE:

1. CONTINUED GAMBIAAN SUPPORT FOR MODERATE SOLUTIONS ON
INTERNATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO
THE UNITED STATES.

2. FURTHER ADVANCEMENT OF THE GAMBIA'S CLOSE, PRAGMATIC

COOPERATION WITH SENEGAL IN REGIONAL (NOTABLY WEST AFRICAN) AFFAIRS, AND WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED STATES IN WORLD COUNCILS.

3. U.S. HUMANITARIAN DESIRE TO ASSIST THE GAMBIA WITH PEACEFUL, STABLE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY BEARING IN MIND THE GAMBIA'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY, AND ITS CLASSIFICATION AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

4. ENCOURAGEMENT OF U.S. PRIVATE INTEREST IN THE GAMBIA, BOTH WITH A VIEW TOWARD EVENTUAL INVESTMENT, AND IN TERMS OF TOURISM POTENTIAL.

B. OVERVIEW:

1. BOLSTERED BY A NEW ELECTORAL MANDATE, PRESUMABLY FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, PRESIDENT JAWARA AND HIS GOVERNMENT NOW EMBARK ON A FURTHER EFFORT TO INTENSIFY THE PACE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSOLIDATE TIES WITH FOREIGN FRIENDS. U.S. RELATIONS REST ON A FOUNDATION OF CORDIALITY, STABILITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT DATING FROM THE GAMBIA'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1965. THIS TREND IS REINFORCED AS A RESULT OF THE GAMBIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION OF APRIL 1977. EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND WITH LIBYA, AS WELL AS OTHER OIL-RICH ARAB STATES, HAS NOT BEEN DETRIMENTAL TO GAMBIAN RELATIONS WITH WESTERN POWERS. WE PURSUE A FRIENDLY DIALOGUE WITH THE GAMBIA ON ALL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, EVEN THOSE ON WHICH OUR POSITIONS DIFFER. AMERICAN VISITORS ARE INVARIABLY WELL RECEIVED IN THE GAMBIA, AMERICAN PRODUCTS GAIN READY

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LOCAL ACCEPTANCE, AND U.S. ITEMS REGULARLY APPEAR IN THE COUNTRY'S LIMITED NEWS MEDIA. A MAJOR REASON FOR CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS HAS BEEN OUR RESPONSIVENESS TO THE GAMBIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS, WHICH NOW INCLUDES AID'S DECISION TO MOVE TOWARD LONG-TERM PROGRAMING FOR THIS COUNTRY.

2. THE GAMBIA'S GROWING COMMITMENT TO THE NON-ALIGNED THIRD WORLD WILL NOT DIMINISH BUT WILL BE TEMPERED BY A PRAGMATIC, NON-IDEOLOGICAL APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONTINUES UNOBTRUSIVELY TO PROMOTE ITS MAJOR AID PROGRAM, PRESENTLY DEVOTED ONLY TO RICE GROWING, BUT SOON TO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPORTS STADIUM IN BANJUL. LIBYA'S MARKED ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL/RELIGIOUS PENETRATION OF THE GAMBIA COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE LONGER-RANGE EFFECT ON RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. HOWEVER, WHILE THE LARGE LIBYAN PRESENCE IN BANJUL HAS NOT YET GIVEN CAUSE FOR ALARM, AND GAMBIA OFFICIALS APPEAR CONFIDENT OF HANDLING LIBYAN EXCESSES, THE POTENTIAL FOR MEDDLING BOTHERS SENEGALESE SECURITY OFFICIALS AND THE SITUATION MERITS CLOSE MONITORING.

ON OCCASION, THE GAMBIA WILL TAKE A POSITION AT VARIANCE WITH NON-ALIGNED "CONSENSUS," BUT IT WILL NOT BE EXPOSED IN THE FACE OF GENERAL AFRICAN AGREEMENT ON A PARTICULAR ISSUE. SINCE THE GAMBIA'S MODERATE VIEWS AND VOTES IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS (ON SUCH ITEMS AS KOREA, PUERTO RICO AND GUAM) ARE OFTEN IMPORTANT TO US, WE MUST MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THIS FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE THROUGH CONTINUED DEMONSTRATIONS TO GAMBIA OFFICIALS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THEIR INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES. OUR POSITIONS ON NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES, AS WELL AS BILATERAL ASSISTANCE, WILL PROVIDE CRITERIA BY WHICH GAMBIANS WILL MEASURE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. CONCERN.

3. U.S. PROGRAMS IN THE GAMBIA HAVE GROWN BIGGER IN RECENT YEARS, BUT CONTINUE TO REFLECT A PROPER BALANCE OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND BASIC INTERESTS. ONE OR MORE BILATERAL AID PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN THE IMPLEMENTATION STAGE OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING

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OUR FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE GAMBIA'S LONGER-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01
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R 191700Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4250
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR BY POUCH

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FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT

A RESIDENT AID OFFICER SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ASSIGNED IN

BANJUL, AND PLANNING MUST BEGIN TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SUPPORT FOR FROM 6-8 AMERICAN AID PERSONNEL WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE INITIATING THEIR PROJECTS HERE DURING 1978. USING AID'S RECENTLY COMPLETED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE GAMBIA AS A BASIC GUIDE, FURTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE EXPLORED. IN THIS SMALL, COMPACT COUNTRY, AID COULD DEVELOP MANAGEABLE PROJECTS THAT WOULD HAVE BROADER APPLICABILITY IN THE SAHEL REGION. IN THIS SENSE, GAMBIA PROGRAMS SHOULD NOT BE MEASURED ON A DOLLAR/PER CAPITA BASIS, BUT RATHER AS TEST CASES FOR FUTURE PROJECTS IN LARGER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

4. THE PEACE CORPS PRESENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 50 VOLUNTEERS SHOULD BE SUSTAINED TO INCLUDE A BROADER GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND EMPHASIZE PROJECTS WHICH CONCENTRATE ON RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MORE TRADITIONAL PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS IN THE EDUCATION FIELD AND IN MIDDLE-LEVEL TECHNICAL TRAINING MAY RECEIVE LESS EMPHASIS, BUT SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED. CONTINUED PL-480 ASSISTANCE, A SPECIAL SELF-HELP PROGRAM IN THE \$50,000 PER YEAR RANGE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM OF ABOUT 15 ANNUAL GRANTS IN ALL CATEGORIES, AND FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE EMBASSY'S LOW-KEY INFORMATION AND CULTURAL OPERATIONS, WILL ALL ASSIST IN PROJECTING AN IMAGE OF U.S. HELPFULNESS AND COOPERATION. SUSTAINED FOLLOW THROUGH ON THESE MODEST INITIATIVES WILL TEND TO CONSOLIDATE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE AND ALLOWS US TO ACHIEVE A LEVEL OF ACTIVITY FULL COMMENSURATE WITH PROMOTING OUR INTERESTS IN THIS SMALL, BUT NOT INSIGNIFICANT COUNTRY.

C. OBJECTIVES, COURSES OF ACTION, AND ISSUES:

1. GIVEN THE STABILITY WHICH HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF THE GAMBIA, AND ITS JUST CONCLUDED ELECTORAL RECONFIRMATION, U.S. OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS REPRESENT A CONTINUUM OF THE RECENT PAST. SUCH OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

1. ACCELERATED ECONOMIC GROWTH LEADING TO EQUITABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND AN IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THE GAMBIA PEOPLE.

2. CONTINUATION OF THE GAMBIA'S MODERATE, PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

3. ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE GAMBIA'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND FUNDAMENTAL REGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GAMBIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF

GREATER AMERICAN TOURISM INTEREST IN THIS COUNTRY.

5. FURTHER SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DONORS, AS WELL AS PRIVATE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

6. INCREASED GAMBIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH SENEGAL AND WITH WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS.

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2. TO FURTHER THESE OBJECTIVES, WE WILL EMBARK ON THE FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION:

1. CONTINUE TO CULTIVATE BROAD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH GAMBIAN POLICY-MAKERS AND OPINION-MOLDERS, KEEPING THEM FULLY APPRISED OF OUR POSITIONS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

2. MOVE TOWARD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LONGER-TERM AID ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE FIELDS OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, CROP PROTECTION, MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH, LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, AND IN OTHER ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE.

3. MAINTAIN A PEACE CORPS PROGRAM OF ABOUT 50 VOLUNTEERS WITH INCREASING EMPHASIS ON RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND MIDDLE LEVEL TECHNICAL TRAINING.

4. SUPPORT MULTI-DONOR STUDIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAMBIA RIVER BASIN, TO ESTABLISH THE LEVEL OF FUTURE AID ASSISTANCE WHICH WILL BECOME PART OF A MULTILATERAL EFFORT TO FINANCE THE BUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INTEGRATED BASIN DEVELOPMENT.

5. ASSIST AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS AND REPORT VIABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

6. CONTINUE THE PL-480 TITLE II FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, WHILE ENCOURAGING THAT AGENCY TO REDIRECT ITS EFFORTS MORE TOWARD PROJECT-RELATED PROGRAMS.

7. PROVIDE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM TO PERMIT SENDING ABOUT 15 SENIOR OFFICIALS AND YOUNGER POTENTIAL LEADERS FROM ALL FIELDS.

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8. MAINTAIN THE SPECIAL SELF-HELP PROGRAM AT THE \$50,000 LEVEL OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

9. SUPPORT THE EMBASSY'S LOW-KEY INFORMATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES WITH A MODEST INCREASE IN RESOURCES, AND GREATER PROFESSIONAL INPUT BY REGIONAL OR WASHINGTON-BASED PERSONNEL FROM USIA.

10. ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN SENEGAL AND THE GAMBIA AND SUPPORT THE GAMBIA'S INTEREST IN ATTEMPTS AT WIDER WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

3. THERE ARE NO SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS OR CONTENTIOUS ISSUES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE GAMBIA, NOR ARE ANY FORSEEABLE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. OUR VIEWS DO DIFFER ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT FRANK, FRIENDLY DIALOGUE EVEN ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE. SOUTHERN AFRICA QUESTIONS AND THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER MORE FAVORABLE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ALSO ISSUES UPON WHICH OUR POSITIONS DIVERGE. POSITIVE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS WILL RECEIVE SYMPATHETIC GAMBIAIAN CONSIDERATION FOR REASONABLE RATHER THAN EXTREME SOLUTIONS. OTHER GAMBIAIAN FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES CORRESPOND TO OUR OWN AND INCLUDE PRINCIPALLY THE FOLLOWING:

1. INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM ANY SOURCE WHICH DOES NOT COMPROMISE GAMBIAIAN INDEPENDENCE.

2. MAINTENANCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH AFFORDS SMALL COUNTRIES FREEDOM OF ACTION AND ASSOCIATION.

3. COOPERATION WITH SENEGAL WITHOUT LOSING NATIONAL IDENTITY.

4. AN INCREASED SHARE OF THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION IN
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VARIOUS SAHEL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, AS WELL AS ASSOCIATION WITH LOME CONVENTION ACP COUNTRIES AND WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS.

5. INCREASED FOREIGN INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY IN LABOR INTENSIVE PROJECTS, WHICH MEET GAMBIAIAN GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT GOALS.
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Message Attributes

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